

Response to Office Action of October 17, 2008
Application No.: 0/671,659
Examiner: Lloyd A. GALL
Art Unit: 3673

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims

The claims are amended as shown on the following pages under the heading LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS. The list shows the status of all claims presently in the application including any current amendments. This list of claims is intended to supersede all prior versions of the claims in the application. Any cancellation of claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer.

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (new): A padlock comprising:

a lock body;

a shackle having a longer arm movably received in said lock body, and a shorter arm extending outside of said lock body from said longer arm; said shorter arm being rotatable about said longer arm; and

a confining block including a block portion and a cylindrical portion extending from a bottom of said block portion; said block portion rotatably disposed outside said lock body and defining a receptacle therein for receiving said shorter arm of said shackle; said cylindrical portion disposed inside said lock body and being rotatable with said block portion simultaneously, wherein when said block portion rotates from a first position to a second position, said shorter arm of said shackle remains staying in said receptacle of said block portion.

Claim 39 (new): The padlock of claim 38 further comprising a numeral wheel set disposed in said lock body, wherein said numeral wheel set includes:

a shaft being parallel with said cylindrical portion of said confining block;

a plurality of inner sleeves in parallel with one another and placed around said shaft; and

a plurality of digit-wheels each mounted around a respective one of said inner sleeves.

Claim 40 (new): The padlock of claim 38, wherein said receptacle of said block portion of said confining block includes a first opening defined in a top of said block portion and a second opening defined in a side of said block portion, and said first and second openings are in communication with each other in such a way that when said block

portion rotates to said second position, said shorter arm of said shackle is allowed to be rotated about said longer arm of said shackle for entrance into or withdrawal from said receptacle of said blocking portion via said second opening.

Claim 41 (new): The padlock of claim 39, wherein said receptacle of said block portion of said confining block includes a first opening defined in a top of said block portion and a second opening defined in a side of said block portion, and said first and second openings are in communication with each other in such a way that when said block portion rotates to said second position, said shorter arm of said shackle is allowed to be rotated about said longer arm of said shackle for entrance into or withdrawal from said receptacle of said blocking portion via said second opening.